



— ALL ABOUT —
ST. CECILIA

Written by Margaret Lee

All About St. Cecilia

Hi, I am known as St. Cecilia of Rome. I was born into a noble Roman family in 180 AD, in Rome, Italy. I secretly pledged my virginity to God from a young age. Throughout my life, I fasted and wore uncomfortable clothing as a sign of my devotion. My parents arranged a marriage for me to a pagan nobleman named Valerian.

As musicians played at my wedding, I “sang to God in my heart,” which made me the patron saint of music. During my wedding, I said my most famous saying: “Let my heart and my body be undefiled, O Lord, that I may not be confounded.”

Later that night, I told Valerian that though I had married him, an angel protected my purity because I had vowed my virginity to God. Valerian agreed to respect my vow and he converted to Christianity after he met Pope Urban I and saw the angel I had talked about.

After he was baptised, Valerian shared his faith with his brother, Tiburtius, who also converted and was baptized. The two brothers decided to help bury other Christians who were killed for their faith, which was illegal. After they were arrested for their faith, I continued to convert hundreds of people and give my family's wealth to the poor. Because of this, I was soon arrested too.

The Romans first tried to suffocate me in an overheated steam bath in my own home, but I survived unharmed. It was a miracle. Instead, they decided to cut off my head. You were allowed to strike three blows to the neck during an execution according to the Roman Law. The executioner struck me three times but still couldn't cut off my head, so I was seriously hurt but alive.

I lived for three more days. During these three days, I continued to talk about God and give my possessions to the poor. Because of the injury, I finally died on November 22, 230 AD in Rome, Italy when I was 50 years old. My last words were: "Arise, soldiers of Christ, cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light."

I am remembered as a Roman martyr in the church, so my house was later turned into the Basilica of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere after my death. In 1599 (1369 years after I



died), my body was found to be undecayed in my tomb, which was a miracle that further affirmed my holiness. Throughout my life, I displayed faithfulness, purity, courage, and charity.

MINI QUIZ QUESTIONS:

1. Where did I live? *Answer: b. Rome, Italy*
 - a. Madrid, Spain
 - b. Rome, Italy
 - c. Paris, France
 - d. Chicago, IL

2. What was my husband's name? *Answer: d. Valerian*
 - a. Tiburtius
 - b. Urban
 - c. Maximus
 - d. Valerian

3. What am I the patron saint of? *Answer: a. Music*
 - a. Music
 - b. Singing
 - c. Wives
 - d. Saints

4. After the executioner struck me three times with a sword, how many more days did I live? *Answer: d. Three Days*

- a. I died instantly*
- b. One day*
- c. Seven days*
- d. Three Days*

5. True or False: When my tomb was opened hundreds of years after my death, my body was found to have turned into dust.

Answer: FALSE

Copyright © 2025 by Margaret Lee
All rights reserved. This document or any portion thereof
may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever
without the express written permission of the publisher
except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.

Printed in the United States of America

First Printing, 2025